

I am curious

Curiosity serves as a fundamental engine for early childhood development and academic success. Research indicates that an innate spirit of inquiry not only fuels creativity and deep learning but can also help bridge the achievement gap for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Curiosity is a vital catalyst for engagement that transforms passive schooling into active, meaningful discovery.

When I am curious in my learning...

I am open to learning new things

Strategies to encourage curiosity and resilience:

Be a "Learning Hero": Teachers should be "at their learning best" by openly sharing their own difficulties, frustrations, and triumphs when learning something new.

Value Mistakes: Create a safe environment where mistake-making is viewed as a learning opportunity rather than a failure. This helps students move from being "fragile and dependent" to "resilient and robust".

Use a Common Language: Adopt a shared vocabulary so students can talk about and improve their own learning habits, like "questioning," "making links," or "noticing".

Provide Choice in Expression: Create opportunities to allow students to choose how they express what they have learned (e.g., through drawing, construction, or oral storytelling).

Facilitate Peer Learning: Encourage students to explain their problem-solving processes to one another.

I ask questions

Strategies to develop questioning skills:

The "7 Ws": Teach children to systematically wonder who, why, what, when, where, if, and how.

Question "Received Wisdom": Encourage students to be less accepting of information at face value and to seek evidence before accepting something as "truth".

Scaffold with Specific Phrases: Use intentional phrases to prompt deeper thinking, such as: "How did you know to do it that way?" or "Why do you think that worked?".

Champion Inquisitive Minds: Use visual and reading materials that explicitly value the benefits of asking questions over merely having the correct answers.

Interactive Learning Walls: Maintain a class learning wall where children can add their own ideas, "hunches," and questions as they arise during a project.

I wonder how and why

Strategies to develop awe and wonder:

Wonder Aloud: Explicitly model and encourage wondering about the **unknown** during lessons. This includes using "hunches and inklings" rather than just following rigid rules.

Co-Researching: Engage in "co-learning" where adults and children explore a mystery together (e.g., wondering why woodlice live under a log), expanding knowledge through a shared spirit of enquiry.

Make Learning Irresistible: Use mystery, humour, and surprise to create "teachable moments" of awe and wonder. For example, showing a short video on the mysteries of space before a science lesson can capture attention and trigger "how" and "why" questions.

Utilise Technology: Tools like USB microscopes can reveal hidden details in ordinary objects (such as a hexagon shape inside a speck of glitter), which fuels a desire to see what else can be revealed through investigation.

Imagination Exercises: Provide children with ordinary objects and ask them to think of as many uses as possible beyond the obvious, encouraging them to wonder "What if?" and explore possibilities.